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A group from Haliburton Real Easy Ryders Cycling Club departs from Lochlin Community Centre last Tuesday. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Real Easy Ryders Cycling Club wheely excited to kick off season

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

On Tuesday May 7, Haliburton Real Easy Ryders Cycling Club kicked off their 2024 riding season. Over 40 people dusted off their bikes and came out to the Lochlin Community Centre Tuesday morning.

"Everybody who wants to come, comes," said Robin Bell, past president of the Haliburton Real Easy Ryders Cycling Club. Bell first joined the riding club in 2012.

"There are about 136 members," said Bell.

"Last year we had 159," said Lee Ann Cruz, current president of Haliburton Real Easy Ryders Cycling Club. "We'll probably reach that or surpass that this season. Some people join later, once they are up to their cottage on May long weekend."

"We'd like to get to know each other and we encourage that," said Cruz. "On a Tuesday ride, we get anywhere from 40 to 50 people."

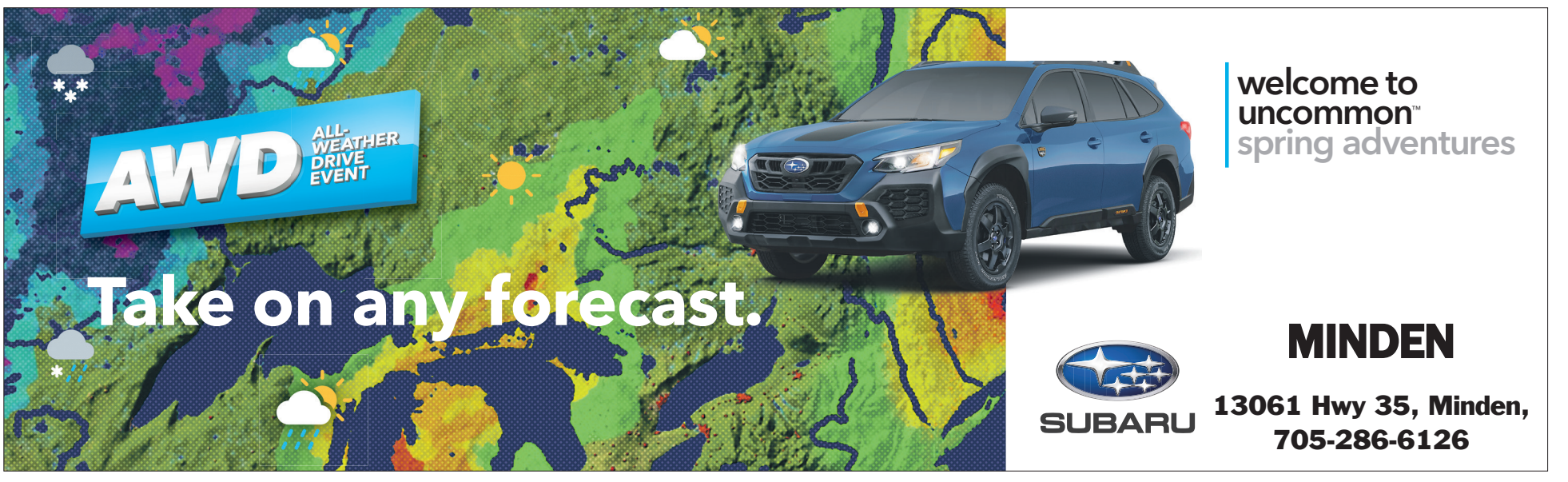
"If it's a wet day, five or 10," said Bell with a laugh. "Last year, we were out of parking completely, there was no space to park at all."

"We were parked lined up along the road as well because we filled our spots," said Cruz. "It was a big turnout."

Starting from the Lochlin Community Centre, the group broke off into five groups. The ride took the cyclists down Gelert Road, up through Ingoldsby and then down Lochlin Road back to the community centre. Some riding groups do longer loups, whereas other cyclists do the short route.

"After our ride, some of us pack a picnic

see REAL page 2



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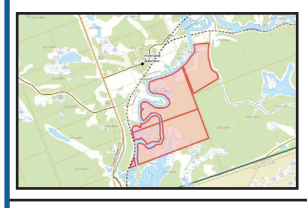
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Cockwell family donates $500,000 to HHHS Foundation

by VIVIAN COLLINGS
Times Staff

The Cockwell Family and Haliburton Forest & Wild Life Reserve have gifted the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) $500,000 for their diagnostic imaging project at the Haliburton hospital.

"We are honoured to make this gift to help ensure the best health care resources are available in the area," said Malcolm Cockwell, managing director at Haliburton Forest. "I hope that this gift will encourage others to support this important initiative."

Life-saving equipment is important to have at home in the county, he said.

"As a major employer in the County we want to ensure that our employees, their families, all residents and visitors to the region have access to life-saving diagnostic tools locally, if and when they need them," Cockwell said.

The new diagnostic imaging equipment will include a mammography unit and CT scanner.

Last fall, HHHSF announced a target fundraising goal of $4.3 million.

The County of Haliburton led the way and committed $1 million to the campaign.

"We are very appreciative that Haliburton Forest and the Cockwell Family have made this significant contribution. Along with the county commitment, this is a strong start for our fundraising campaign to improve local health care services," said Tayce Wakefield, lead volunteer for the HHHSF campaign.

With a mammography unit, the Haliburton hospital will be able to serve over 6000 women at risk of breast cancer in the area.

It's the most effective way to detect breast cancer.

Haliburton County is the only county in Ontario without a CT scanner.

Soon, residents will be able to receive diagnoses close to home.

With the diagnostic imaging suit under construction, the CT scanner is expected to arrive in June.

The mammography unit will come later this year.

"It is exciting to see this transformational gift make an immediate impact. We are grateful to the Cockwell Family and Haliburton Forest for this gift in support of the Diagnostic Imaging expansion at HHHS," said David Blodgett, chair of the HHHSF board. "This gift is a further example of the exceptional generosity of those who live, work and visit the County."

The diagnostic imaging is expected to reduce ambulance visits out of the county, keeping them close for local emergencies.

There is also hope new technology will attract physicians, nurses, and medical radiation technologists to the area.

"The Here for You Diagnostic Imaging Campaign is the beginning of much-needed upgrades at HHHS to ensure a thriving healthy community in the future. This is a critical, life-changing step forward in the provision of health services in the County. It is a big project but one that is desperately needed, bringing CT to the county has been over a decade in the works," said Melanie Klodt-Wong, executive director of HHHSF.

Visit the Foundation website hhhs.ca/foundation to learn more about their Here For You campaign.

Real Easy Ryders all about fun and fitness, says president

from page 1

lunch and we just go over and sit outside and catch up with people, have lunch before we go back home," said Cruz.

"I used to ride as a kid," said Bell. "As an adult, I've been riding since maybe 1990, a bit earlier than that, in the 80s."

"I was doing a lot of running and my knee wasn't agreeing with me and I was taking up cycling as cross training and I found I really enjoyed it." "It's a really fun activity."

All forms of cycling are accepted with the group including e-bikes and recumbent bikes.

"I was the president for five years," said Bell.

"Then I came along and kinda got bamboozled into it," said Cruz with a laugh.

"I came in 2021 and I just wanted to meet people. I enjoyed cycling so I thought this was a good fit."

"It is a very hilly area, that is why the e-bikes are so beneficial. If someone wants to come and ride but they are a little nervous about hills, we don't discriminate. E-bikes are welcome. Not all cycling clubs allow e-bikes, but we do. We just want people to come out and ride, to have fun, and to socialize," said Cruz. "It's really about fun and fitness."

Haliburton Real Easy Ryders Cycling Club has a website with each of their cycling routes available to the public.

"Tourists can use our maps," said Bell. "We're very happy to see that."

The cycling club also has an account with Ride with GPS to allow members to select routes in which they can cycle along with turn navigation.

"We want to make sure everyone is staying hydrated and that they are comfortable so we'll pull over where it's safe to do so and stop, regroup, make sure everyone has a drink and carry on," said Cruz.

The club takes two trips every year, one in the spring and one in the fall. This spring, the club is visiting Welland and the Niagara area where they will be cycling the area and having dinner at a country club.

"We have a few members in our club who are musicians. So after dinner we usually gather together, they pull out their instruments and we have some fun with that," said Cruz.

"We have quite a mix of people. Men, women, different ages. A lot of retirees obviously. Last year our average age was 67. We have some members in their 30s, some members in their early 80s and everything in between. It's open for anyone 18 and over for anyone who wants to come out and ride with us. If a member has a friend or family member who is interested in riding with us, they are welcome to, they just need to go to our website and there is a guest waiver to complete before a ride.

Membership is $40 for the entire season.

"It's very inexpensive to join. We didn't want it to be cost prohibitive for anyone," said Cruz. "That $40 gets you riding from April 30th and we ride until the end of October. There are three organized rides per week all season long, threw potluck lunches throughout the season w here we meet at a community hall and then two organized trips."

Tourists that do not know a member are still encouraged to sign up as a guest on their website. Guest riders are allowed a limited number of trips to try out to see if they enjoy riding with the club.

Safety is the riding club's number one priority. Helmets are mandatory and no cyclist will be left behind.

The Haliburton Real Easy Ryders Cycling Club conducts three rides per week on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Cyclists of all experience are welcome to join, as long as they have a bike to peddle and a helmet, said Cruz.

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Cell tower project approaches a time crunch, says EORN

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The effort to improve internet service for eastern Ontario has brought more than $30 million in infrastructure to Haliburton County so far.

Lisa Severson of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) told county council when it met May 8 that the project's overall value will be more than $300-million when complete.

The goal is to have 99 per cent coverage in the demand area where people live, work, and travel on major roads. That'll ensure they can make a phone call when they need, especially in emergency situations, she said.

In 95 per cent of that area, there'll be a service level that will support email, web browsing, and social media applications.

People will be able to access video conferencing, streaming, and other data intensive applications in as much as 85 per cent of the eastern Ontario region covered.

"We're building a network, so towers are dependent on each other to make the network fulsome and work properly," Severson said.

Ensuring the network's viability often requires negotiated land leases with private landowners or municipalities, she said.

"We do not have towers being built on Crown land," she said.

There are still 11 outstanding land use agreements (LUA) that need to be completed in Haliburton County.

"We're kind of getting to a crunch point at this time," Severson said. "The project needs to be completed by 2026."

Much work in site preparation and other regulatory tasks need to be carried out after an LUA is inked. All that work takes time.

And that's before the final process of constructing the towers.

"We're getting close to a point where, if we don't start moving on some of the towers and the LUAs, it's going to put completing those towers in jeopardy," she said.

She said that of the 11 LUAs yet to be finalized, three are nearly done, three are in the public consultation stage, and three are in the pre-public consultation stage with planning staff. Three others have yet to start any of the process, she said.

"We appreciate what's been done to date and we know that everybody is busy at the municipalities," Severson said. "If there's any way that EORN can help you with that process, let us know and we'll try to help out."

Councillor Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, asked if the cell towers will be capable to host high speed broadband service.

Severson said cellular equipment was funded when contracts were negotiated with the provincial and federal governments.

"But that equipment can do both," she said.

Rogers Communications, in its business plan, will determine where the broadband service will be rolled out, she said.

"They may not do it on every tower, but they are offering in some areas their broadband," she said. "So we can try and find out more information what that looks like for Haliburton County. I do know that there is a need for it here."

Warden Liz Danielsen asked for more information about the difficulty of acquiring Crown land for the project.

"It just seems that quite often if there's any level of dissatisfaction with a location, people want to know why not on Crown land," Danielsen said.

Severson said erecting towers on Crown land would trigger the environmental assessment process for the entire EORN project.

"All 257 sites," she said. "Not just the one site that would be potentially on Crown land."

Hospital removes all agency nurses

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

As of May 1, Haliburton Hospital has removed all agency nurse staff.

"Beginning May 1st, HHHS committed to no longer depending on agency staff. Not only does this decision align with Ontario Health East and the commitment to eliminate agency support as of May 1, but it also highlights our ongoing commitment and care for employing our own nurses, personal support workers, allied health professionals and other providers. However, we know that our rurality may present extenuating circumstances where agency staff are still required. For these rare instances, HHHS will carefully consider approving agency support on a shift-by-shift basis," said Veronica Nelson, CEO of HHSS. "When hospitals and long-term care homes are unable to fill shifts using their own employees, they often turn to agencies to temporarily hire nurses, allied health professionals and executives. The goal always being to allow the organization to continue providing care without negative impact to the community. However, this "temporary solution" to staff shortages comes at a very hefty cost – agencies charge more than our local rates. This not only impacts budgets, but the community and culture of an organization."

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THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

MINDEN HILLS Cultural Centre

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• The UFO's (Unfinished Objects Craft Group) will be meeting at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden on Friday, May 17 from 1 -3 pm. Bring your unfinished projects to work on and a snack. All are welcome!
• Don't miss the season opening of the Minden Hills Museum, Heritage Village and Nature's Place on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Enjoy a cup of tea and some Victorian-era refreshments in the dining room of Bowron House. Take a guided tour around the village or explore early settler games and craft demonstrations. Visit with the exotic animals from Browning Reptiles from 12 – 2 p.m. Admission is by donation. The event will run rain or shine. For more info: https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-05-18-1000-Minden-Hills-Museum-Heritage-Village-and-Natures-P
• Join us for the first of our Community Heritage Series: A Century of Local Healthcare by Larry Ferguson explores the history of regional health services. The talk will be held at the Cultural Centre on Thursday, May 23 at 5:00 PM. Admission is by donation. For more info: https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-05-23-1700-A-Century-of-Local-Healthcare-presentation-by-Larr
• Connection and Response, an exhibit by conceptual artist Bruce Cull, will be on display until June 8 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden. Open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is by donation. For more info: https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-04-04-1000-Connection-and-Response-An-Exhibit-by-Bruce-Cull

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL, IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:
• **May 30** – Regular Council Meeting
• **June 13** – Regular Council Meeting
Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Visit our website for more information.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT (HHW)

Our first HHW event of the year is taking place this Saturday, May 18 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena (55 Parkside St., Minden). A valid waste disposal card must be shown. Please ensure items are in sealed containers and not leaking.

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS CELEBRATES CANADA DAY

The Township of Minden Hills will be celebrating Canada Day Monday July 1, 2024! We are currently looking for vendors to showcase their products, cause, or services for our event! Deadline for submissions is May 31, 2024. To reserve your spot please email our Recreation Coordinator, Sarah Purdy at spurdy@mindenhills.ca

NO DAYTIME BURNING

No daytime burning from April 1st to October 31st in any year as it is considered fire season. Fire restrictions are from 7:00 AM till 7:00 PM (daytime burning). No person shall start a fire outdoors during the restricted time in fire season.

Volunteer Fire Departments Use Green Flashing Lights When Responding to the Fire Hall
Please yield the right of way.
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PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Looking to apply for an Entrance or Wide Load Permit? Visit our website www.mindenhills.ca/entranceandwideloadpermits/ for more information.

CALL FOR LOCHLIN COMMUNITY CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Township of Minden Hills is looking for two volunteers to participate as members on the Lochlin Community Centre Advisory Committee for the remaining (2023-2026) term of Council.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in participating on this committee, please download and submit a completed Advisory Committee Application Form visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom for full details.

Application deadline is Tuesday, May 21, 2024 by 12:00 noon.
For an Application Form or for more information, please contact Vicki Bull at vbull@mindenhills.ca, 705-286-1260 ext. 515 or Lisa Fitton at lfitton@mindenhills.ca, 705-286-1260 ext. 527.

NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING - PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWNSHIP'S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2024, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding proposed changes to the Township's Fees and Charges By-law for the schedules noted below:

- Schedule A Classes of Permits and Fees for Building
- Schedule G Cemetery
- Schedule H Community Services Programs & Facilities
- Schedule L Local Community Insurance Services
- Schedule F Planning Department Fees

The proposed changes to the noted schedules will be posted on the Township website www.mindenhills.ca. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

Dated this 10th day of May, 2024.
If you have any questions, please contact:
Vicki Bull, Clerk, 705-286-1260 Ext 515 E: vbull@mindenhills.ca

TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS MUNICIPAL OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAY, MAY 20 FOR VICTORIA DAY

The Township of Minden Hills Municipal Office located at 7 Milne St., Minden will be closed for Victoria Day on Monday, May 20, 2024. Our office will reopen on Tuesday, May 21 at 8:30 a.m.

WATCH FOR WORKERS

Construction season is here. Keeping a work site safe includes everyone. Slow down and watch for workers when approaching road work sites.

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Voodoo Pawn Shop brings hype for comp

by THOMAS SMITH
Editor

Voodoo Pawn Shop band members Randy Cracknell, Wolf Endlicher, Ted Wright, and Paul Murray pose in front of the Highlands Blues Society's banner on display at the concert at HHSS on Friday to gain student interest in the Pat Monaghan Youth Award contest on June 4. /Submitted.

On May 10, Voodoo Pawn Shop performed for students at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. Voodoo Pawn Shop is a blues band based out of Uxbridge, Ontario. The concert was organized by the Highlands Buckside Blues Society for students to gain an interest in blues music and to gain momentum for Patrick Monaghan Youth Award contest on June 4.

The Patrick Monaghan Youth Award is named in honour of the late Patrick Monaghan. Patrick Monaghan passed away last year after a warrior's battle with cancer. Monaghan bastioned the love of blues music through the Buckside Blues Cruise Show broadcasted from Canoe FM.

Some lucky students will be given the opportunity to attend the Blues Camp with the Grand River Blues Society in Waterloo.

"Music as a whole is important," says Paul Murray, drummer of Voodoo Pawn Shop and friend of Monaghan. Whether it be blues, rock, whatever, music is a form of communication you'll never get sick of, says Murray.

The Highlands Buckside Blues Society was formed to develop local, community based interests in blues music. Through performances and jam sessions such as the one at HHSS, the society strives to keep the love of blues alive in the Haliburton highlands.

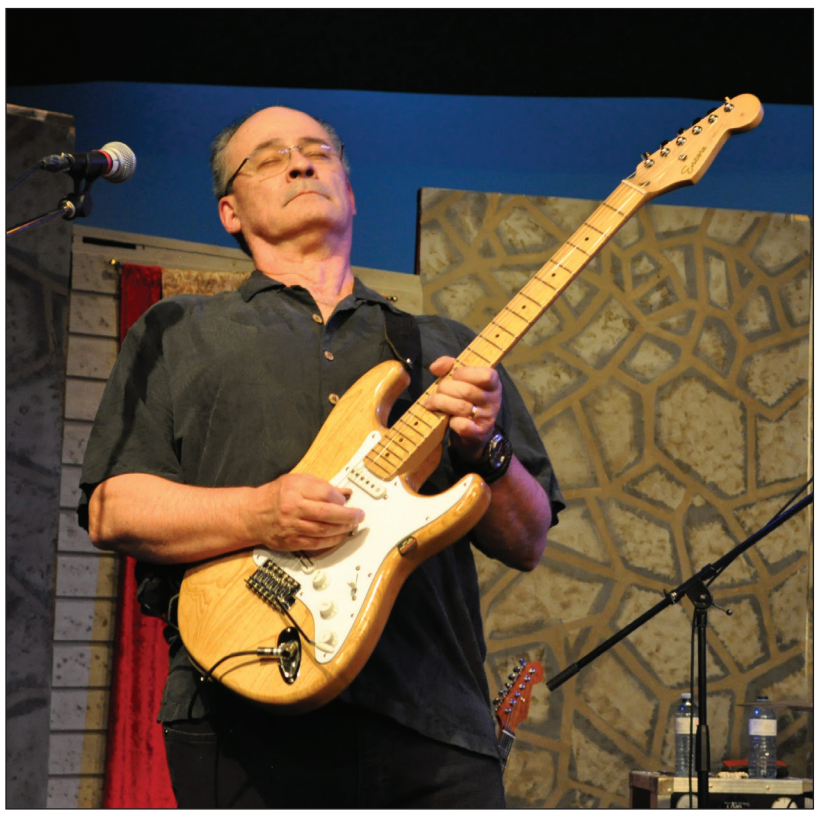
"We are a blues society, our goal is to promote blues music," says Mark Riemenschneider, member of the Highlands Buckside Blues Society. "The way to do that is through young people. We focus on young people to try and educate, promote, and inspire. We strive to inspire young musicians."

"I listen to so many blues bands and there is so much more than just the same old artists. They are amazing and they are out there." Riemenschneider is confident that the next generation of blues musicians can be found at HHSS. Hopefully, concerts such as Voodoo Pawn Shop will inspire a young person to take up the guitar, or form an interest in blues music. The blues competition and talent show would allow opportunities for students to attend a music camp and learn everything they need to know to succeed as a blues musician. Students, aged 11 to 18 are encouraged to compete in the competition

Blues music originates in the Black community in the United States and at one point was fading from popularity until young British musicians added to the genre, says Riemenschneider. The Highlands Buckside Blues Society hopes to preserve the love of blues music despite industry dominating figures like Taylor Swift.

The Highlands Blues Society is looking forward to putting on their Blues Festival August 23 and 24 this year at the Haliburton Highlands Museum.

Voodoo Pawn Shop rocked the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion to dozens of enthralled students /THOMAS SMITH Staff



Exciting changes for Farmers' Market

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

The Haliburton County Farmers' Market is ecstatic to begin their 2024 season on May 14 in Haliburton at Head Lake Park. Last year, the farmers' market decided to set up their location at the Rotary Park to avoid township fees. This year, the farmers' market is returning to Head Lake Park, albeit with fees.

"It's about visibility," says Mike Townsend, board member of Haliburton County Farmers' Market. Some vendors reported that they had a severe loss of revenue, with some vendors saying they had 70 per cent less.

"It's a great way to support local," said Townsend. "The event is free, you can get outside and wander around and see what the county has to offer. Around 70 to 75 per cent of our vendors are local."

Haliburton's farmers' market is changing the Tuesday market hours to 10-2.

"We hope the change will bring a larger lunch crowd and alleviate traffic issues," said Heather Braham, board member of Haliburton County Farmers' Market.

The Haliburton County Farmers' Market will have three locations this year. On Tuesdays, the market will be located in Haliburton at Head Lake Park from 10 - 2. On Fridays, the market will be located at Abbey Gardens in West Guilford from 2 to 6. On Saturdays, the market will be located in downtown Minden behind the township offices.

With over 30 vendors for the Haliburton farmers' market, around 24 for Minden, and 13 at Abbey Gardens, there will be something for everyone. Vendors will have a variety of goods including microgreens, plants, flowers, maple products, garlic, honey, berries, meat, and pizza.

Leashed dogs are also welcomed to attend the markets.

The Minden Farmers' Market will have the new addition of new toilets for market customers to use.

"We are really excited about the toilets and getting included with the Minden community," said Braham.

The Haliburton County Farmers' Market Minden offers a wide variety of fresh produce. /FILE

The Haliburton County Farmers' Market Association would like to thank the township of Minden Hills and the community for their continued support of the Haliburton County Farmers' Market. They would also like to give a special thank you to the parks and recreation staff for taking care of the grass, washrooms and garbage at their downtown Minden market location.

"We're getting ready to have a great market season and can't wait for everyone to come," said Braham.

"The market is great for vendors as it gives the producer an opportunity to sell their products," said Townsend. For customers, it is a free event that happens 3 times per week at sites throughout the county and is a chance for people to buy fresh produce or artisanal goods that were produced in Haliburton County, says Townsend.

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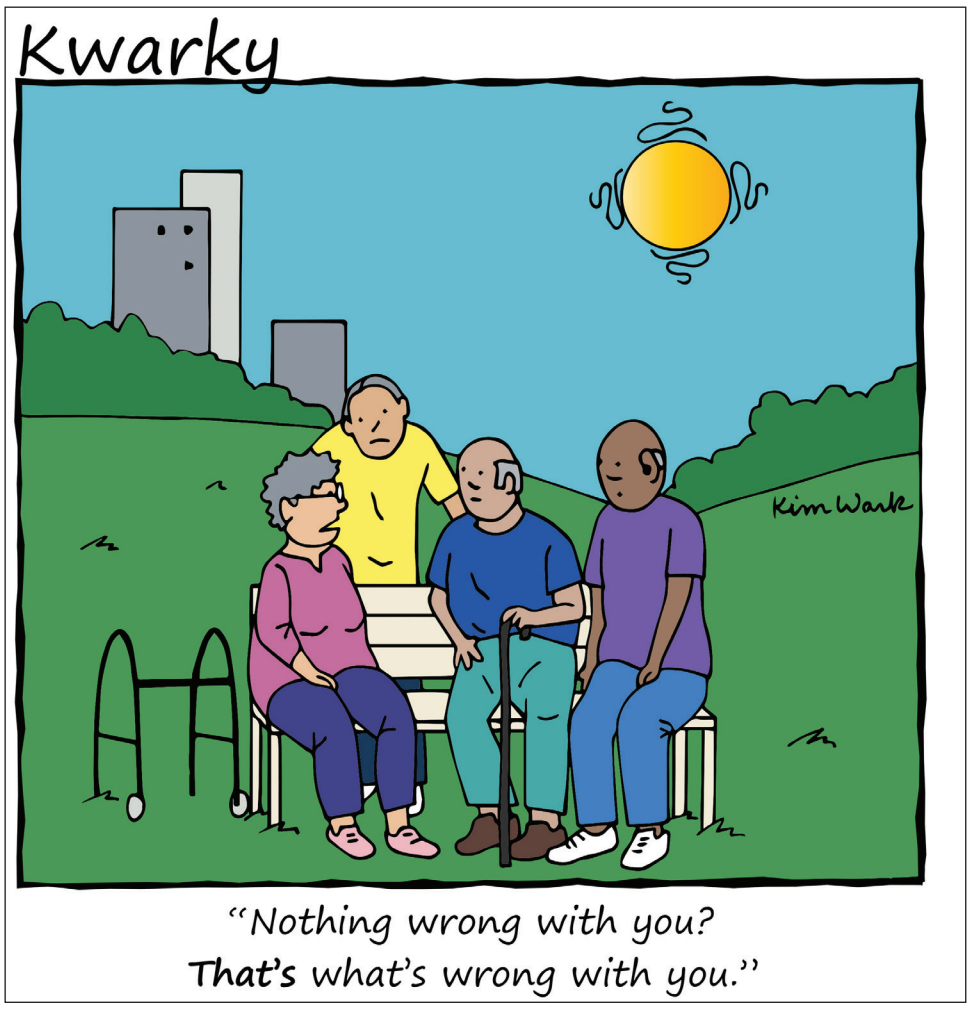


Carrington event – a matter of when

PERHAPS YOU were one of the lucky few this weekend to witness an aurora caused by geomagnetic storms. It was said that these auroras could be viewed as far south as the southern United States in places like Alabama and Georgia. One of my friends in Bowmanville says that most of the town was without power for a portion of Friday evening, which they believe to have been caused by the geomagnetic storm. These storms are due to coronal mass ejections, blasts of solar material in the form of electromagnetic radiation that are hurled towards Earth. This radiation causes the aurora borealis or northern lights that can be readily observed in the Canadian arctic. Hues of greens and purple are beautiful when they dance across our sky, but they can be a death sentence for electronics and our communications network. While science can provide explanations for the source of the flare's energy, we are still unsure about the mechanism involved inside the sun.

THOMAS SMITH
Editor

In 1859, the first solar flares were observed by Richard Carrington and Richard Hodgson. During this event, telegraph communications wires sparked and telegraph stations caught fire due to the influx of energy. Humans have advanced technology considerably since 1859.

Lloyd's of London and the Atmospheric and Environmental Research department in the US estimate that a geomagnetic storm the size of a Carrington event would have a $774 billion to $7.34 trillion impact.

Societal life after another large scale Carrington event would bring humanity to its knees. Nearly all forms of telecommunications would be heavily damaged and a large majority of electronics would be unusable.

It could take decades for humanity to rebuild and repair the technological infrastructure that we have today. Solar flares also happen with very little to no notice. Think of the massive impact it would have to not be able to charge electric vehicles, pump gas at the gas station, or have access to drinking water. Your kids won't be able to watch Cocomelon on the iPad anymore.

Luckily, the only solar flare event that was stronger than the Carrington event in 1859 happened in 774/775 AD. The chances of total decimation from a solar flare event seems to be exceptionally low.

However, it is still a possibility. In 2024 there are little to no precautions taken with electronics and other infrastructure throughout Canada. The only tip that I can find online is to unplug your electronics from the wall when you learn of an oncoming storm.

Truth be told, if a large enough Carrington type event were to affect the world, humanity would have to temporarily revert to living off the land and survive without technology for years before everything is replaced. That is also without mentioning the precious lives lost due to the lack of technological support.

I'll accept my odds that a Carrington type event like the one that happened in 774/775 AD will not happen in my lifetime. In the future, when we study solar flares and their machinations more, I am confident science could have a preventative answer to the damages these flares can have. By then, we should be prepared.

But for now, I'm gonna continue enjoying the pretty lights.

Wading into fashion

NOT TO brag, but over the last few weeks, I have been spending a lot of time wearing waders. But only because I have been fishing a lot.

Waders are an essential and practical piece of gear, especially if you spend your time standing in the coldwater creeks where trout reside. They keep you warm and dry. That is, unless a bear starts fishing the same stretch of creek. Then they just keep you warm.

All practicality aside, I don't think I need to tell anyone how cool waders look.

In fact, they look so cool that I am constantly amazed that chest waders have not once been strutted down the fashion runways of Milan, Paris, London, or Tokyo. The only reason, I suspect, is that the cost of making waders with legs long enough for your typical fashion model might be cost prohibitive.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

What's more surprising to me is that you don't see anyone walking down any main street in smalltown Ontario, wearing waders – unless, of course, there is flooding, and then you see it a lot.

I think the fashion world is missing out.

I mean, every time I wear my chest waders, I tend to get a lot of looks.

Take, last week at the grocery store. I could hear everyone whispering, "Look at what he's wearing."

And fellow shoppers and staff seemed to be drawn to me and were trying to break the ice with comments like, "You know you don't need those to go to the fish section," or "The adult absorbent underwear section is in aisle 6," or even "Sir, this is a 10 items or less line."

Admittedly, I am not comfortable with all that attention. Mostly because, I am not used to being the best dressed person in the room.

But I will also admit that it is nice to know that even at 62, I can still turn heads.

The point is, I think it would be nice if waders became part of our everyday fashion experience – and not just because, if they don't, I will have no excuse to keep several leaky pairs.

I mean, anyone who has ever worn them knows how form flattering they are. I happen to be a short man, but when I wear my neck waders, my legs look a lot longer. Oh sure, this is at the expense of my upper torso, but let's face it, ZZ-Top never sang, "She's got torso…."

They come in all the fashionable colours already too: grey, tan, light grey, light tan, and camouflage. And they are also available in form-fitting neoprene or a relaxed nylon shell that when filled with air, allow you to rock the ever-popular bowling-pin shape.

So basically, all you need is two pairs to have your formal and informal gatherings covered.

The point is waders are a practical and fashionable article of clothing in and out of the water. How practical? I mean if everyone kept their wader's belts cinched very tight, you'd never have to worry about noxious fumes on crowded elevators again. Plus, when you go to a park, you can really immerse yourself in the fountain's design.

Basically, they are the four-wheel-drive of pants. They allow you to go anywhere – except, of course, the runways in Milan, Paris, London, or Tokyo.

InOtherWords

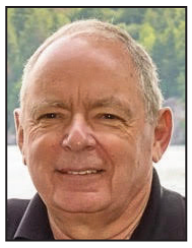
Columns and Letters to the Editor

Anger on the roads

VICTORIA DAY is Monday and the long weekend it produces brings bad driving on the highways. Much of the dangerous driving will result from road rage, which is increasing everywhere.

Surveys in the U.S. show road rage incidents up as much as 500 per cent. The American Automobile Association has found that nearly 80 percent of polled drivers expressed serious aggression, anger or outright road rage while driving at least once a year.

Precise statistics are difficult to find but police services say that road rage is responsible for accidents that injure or kills hundreds of people every year.



JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock

Here in Canada a survey shows 81 per cent of Ontario drivers have witnessed a road rage incident.

And here's a surprise: Staid old England is one of the world's hottest spots for road rage. Roughly two in three (69.5 percent) of British drivers say they experience road rage. Germany is said to be the European country with the least road rage incidents, possibly because that country serves up fines or jail time for drivers who shout insults or make rude gestures while driving.

These road rage numbers should not be a surprise. We live in an angry world and most of us see the results of it every day. Broken relationships, arguments at work, attacks on authority figures such as police, and of course road rage, are all evidence of an increasingly angry world.

Affordability worries are driving record levels of rage. People say they are upset with high interest rates, high rents and having to spend more money on gasoline and groceries.

A recent poll by the Toronto polling company Pollara found that 60 per cent of Canadians surveyed are angry with the federal government. Almost 70 per cent surveyed were annoyed with the economy.

The Canadian Association of Mental Health says that increasing anger in Canada is part of a global mental health crisis. It says that mental illness is a leading cause of disability in Canada, preventing 500,000 employed Canadians from attending work each week.

The World Health Organization reports that mental disorders have increased 13 per cent globally in the last 10 years. Road rage is considered a mental disorder.

Worldwide, more than two million fatalities occur yearly that areassociated with traffic accidents, exacting a heavy toll in human tragedy and economic burden.

One reason that road rage has been increasing is because drivers see it as easy and relatively safe. It's easier to shake your fist and scream at someone when you are protected in your locked car and not directly in someone's face.

Also, most road rage motorists will tell you they are expert drivers who can safely cut in on other drivers while honking their horns or tailgating while shaking their fists.

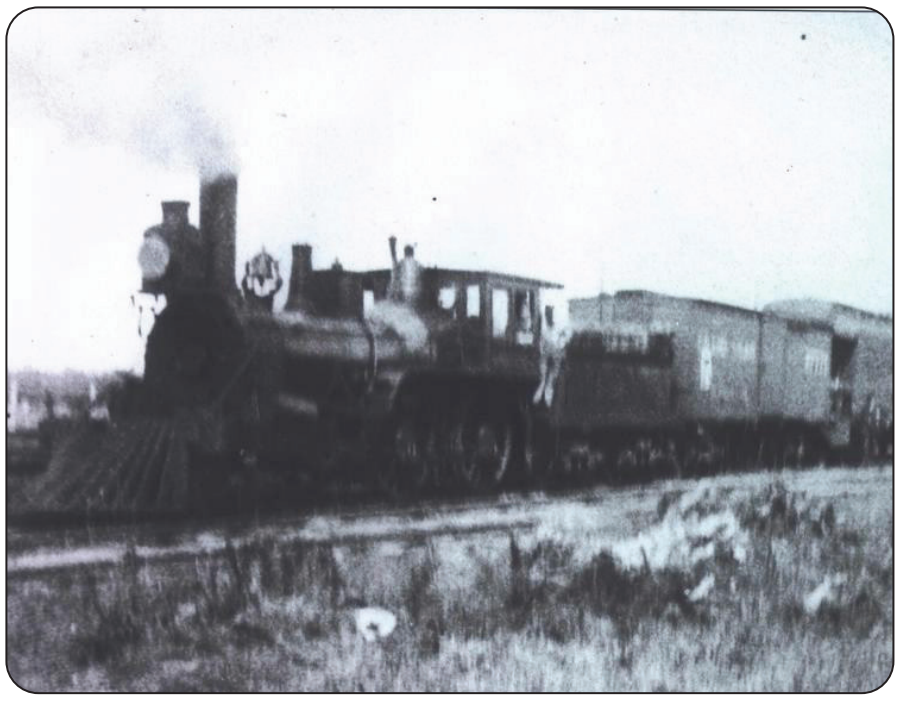
DefensiveDriving.org has a list of tips for avoiding road rage incidents. Number One is simply to practice polite driving habits. Avoid speeding, tailgating, fast unsignalled lane changes and honking your horn unnecessarily.

These are the types of things that anger other drivers and encourage them to retaliate with aggressive driving.

Don't make rude gestures or yell at other drivers. You are not the police and it's not your job to remind other drivers how to drive. If you encounter an aggressive driver just let them get past you. They'll soon be out of sight.

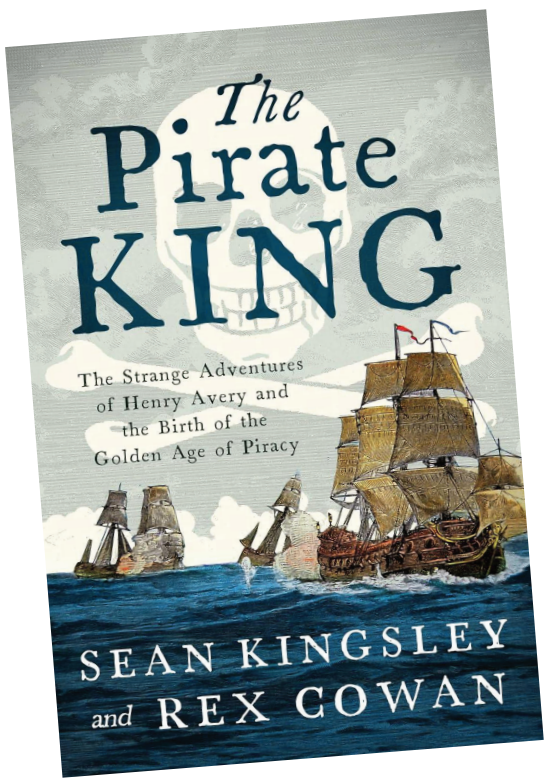
Victoria Day weekend brings traffic delays, driver frustrations, speeding and all sorts of aggressive driving. If you are into it this weekend, take some deep breaths, turn on some music and plan on arriving alive at your destination.

Minden Memories



This is the number two engine of the Irondale, Bancroft and Ottawa (I.B.& O.) Railway, which transported passengers throughout the highlands till it ended its operations in 1960. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HCPL's Book of the Week


The Pirate KING
The Strange Adventures of Henry Avery and the Birth of the Golden Age of Piracy
SEAN KINGSLEY and REX COWAN

Henry Avery of Devon pillaged a fortune from a Mughal ship off the coast of India and then vanished into thin air – and into legend. More ballads, plays, biographies and books were written about Avery's adventures than any other pirate. His contemporaries crowned him "the pirate king" for pulling off the richest heist in pirate history and escaping with his head intact. Rumors swirled about his disappearance. The only certainty is that Henry Avery became a ghost.

What happened to the notorious Avery has been pirate history's most baffling cold case for centuries. Now, in a remote archive, a coded letter written by "Avery the Pirate" himself, years after he disappeared, reveals a stunning truth.

The Pirate King by Sean Kingsley and Rex Cowan is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Modular homes, shared services can assuage housing needs

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As if EORN staff didn't have enough on their plates with the logistics of placing and erecting more than 600 cell towers as part of a $300 million project in eastern Ontario.

The Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) has been working the last few years to erect towers in an effort to cover gaps in the region's cellular telephone and internet service.

Big job for a staff of 12 people, right?

Well, Haliburton County council heard May 8 about a number of other tasks taken on by the crowd at EORN.

They've been asked by the Eastern Ontario Warden's Council (EOWC) to work on a more detailed business plan for the 7 in 7+ Regional Housing Plan. There are as many as 14,000 housing units on municipal rental waiting lists throughout eastern Ontario. People wait an average of five years to get into those homes.

And some people have to wait up to 10 years for a rental housing unit.

The EOWC plan is to build at least 7,000 community rental units over seven years throughout the region to whittle down that wait list.

"It was a little more labour intensive than we anticipated it to be," said EORN's Jason St. Pierre. "It turned out to be a rather detailed and large document.

"But we are quite proud of the work and the effort that went into that and it's been well received to date."

According to EOWC, the 7 in 7+ plan requires partnering with all three levels of government, as well as the private and non-profit sectors and Indigenous communities.

Using a mixed-model approach, the regional housing plan has the added benefit of including an additional 21,000 market rate units, totaling 28,000 housing units.

The implementation of this plan is expected to deliver multi-billion dollar economic benefits and provide housing for the region's workers, address homelessness, and support those who are looking to own a home.

"This is key to the economic and social stability of our communities and economy," according to the wardens group.

Associated with the EOWC's effort is establishing communal services.

EORN and 2B Developments in February secured $1 million in funding to support the localization of communal servicing.

"From the 7 in 7+ plan, we really saw an opportunity to look at municipal lands," St. Pierre said. "A lot of them are in unserviced areas and this technology would allow for the potential of unlocking some of these rural lands."

Communal services, also known as shared drinking water and sewage systems, provide water and wastewater treatment to clusters of residences and businesses. They are also be referred to as decentralized systems or cluster systems.

St. Pierre said they're mobile systems that can accommodate up to 500 housing units. Traditional piping costs about $1,000 per metre to put in the ground.

"They are scalable," he said. "You can start your Phase 1 (of a subdivision development) at 200 units and add onto that box. So there's a lot of flexibility in that."

These systems operate on principles similar to conventional municipal services but without the reliance on a single central facility where municipal water and sewer services are either non-existent or beyond the fiscal capacity of local government.

EORN hopes to provide continued support to Frontenac County, which recently created a Municipal Services Corporation and has pioneered communal servicing in eastern Ontario.

Part of the project is to create a step-by-step guide mirroring the Frontenac model and provide it to other rural municipalities.

EORN has also been working with Transnomis Solutions Inc. on the Permit Central project. That's a digital road permit platform for governments to streamline the permit process, which will save time and administrative costs.

St. Pierre said the group has been working on that project at the county level in Haliburton.

"We've had some discussion with the local Public Works groups as well and continue to support that initiative," he said.

Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, asked if EORN will approach the lower tier municipalities as well as the upper tier council.

St. Pierre said information has been drafted but has yet to be approved for distribution.

Councillor Cecil Ryall, Highlands East's deputy mayor, asked if prefabricated homes have been considered as a compliment to communal services.

"I'm not necessarily meaning trailers," he said. "I mean factory manufactured (units). The cost of building on site is very expensive."

Bringing prefabricated housing to the site reduces the time that unit could be occupied, he said.

"What it does is it makes (housing) much more affordable and we're looking for now is affordable housing that's readily available in a short period of time," Ryall said.

"Under the 7 in 7+ business plan that we worked through, we did explore a number of the modular opportunities," St. Pierre said, and added that the benefits of modular housing was evident after meeting with that industry's builders.

Coun. Bob Carter, Minden Hills' mayor, said a major issue with the shared services equipment and housing density will be ground water.

"The limiting factor is going to be how much ground water you can take out to service," Carter said. "You'll be able to handle the wastewater. It will just come down to having enough ground water for the number of units you're going to build."

"The same water studies need to be done," St. Pierre said. "The one difference on this is, yes, an aquifer can be used. You can also use lake water. There's certain level you're allowed to draw from and that all still needs to be considered."

Rotarians caught in the act

Scott Baker and Dave Woodcroft, members of Minden Rotary begun the process of building a shed at the Minden community garden on Friday. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

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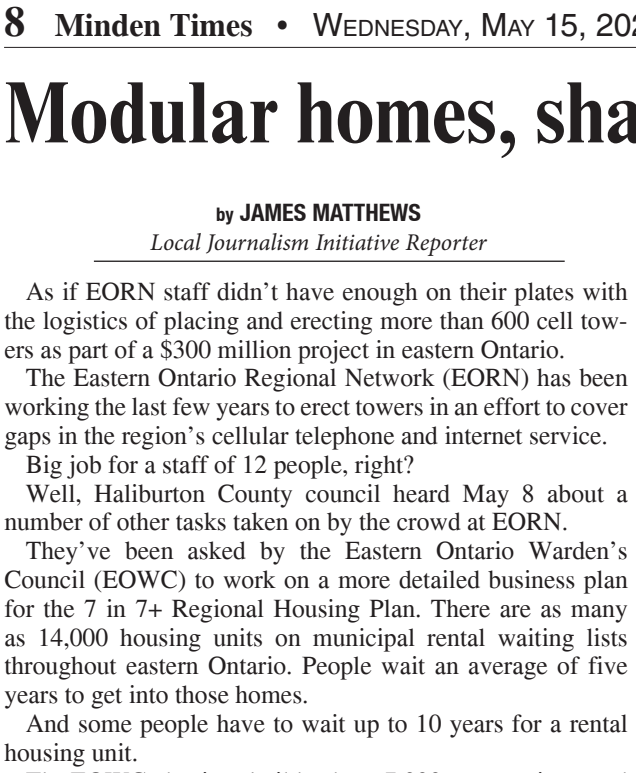

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Human problems

ONTARIO HAS become the latest province in Canada to institute a ban on cellphones in the classroom effective in September 2024. On the Government of Ontario website, the news release announcing this ban (titled "Ontario Cracking Down on Cellphone Use and Banning Vaping in Schools" and subtitled "Province removing distractions from classrooms as part of its back-to-basics plan") cites a 2023 UNESCO report as finding "a negative link between excessive cellphone use and student academic performance." Interestingly, this negative link only forms a small part of the 547-page report Technology in education: On Whose Terms? The rest of the report paints a complex, nuanced picture of technology use in the classroom worldwide.

ERIN KERNOHAN-BERNING
Humans and Technology

There are a number of reasons why curbing cellphone use in the classroom may be warranted. Again, from the UNESCO report which cites a number of studies and meta-analyses, having a pocket-sized portal to the entire internet that demands constant attention can be very distracting. Social media, which is also to be blocked on school networks come September, can have a negative impact on mental health and well being when not used in moderation. Steve Boots, TikTok-er, YouTuber, and teacher in Saskatchewan (which has not implemented such a ban yet), argues that school is really the only place where the social environment can be controlled.

However, the UNESCO report also includes a great deal of material about learner-centred technology use in the classroom – uses for accessibility, ensuring the equitable use of technology so lower income students aren't left behind, considerations around learner privacy, tailoring technology in the classroom to local needs, emphasizing online safety, and clearly measuring learner outcomes to determine if technology use is truly an enhancement to learning. All of this is framed with the tension created as "the commercial sphere and the commons pull in different directions."

We need to remember that consumer technology like cellphones, the internet, and social media, are profit-seeking endeavours, and those aims don't always align with the public good. The central tenet of the report is that a learner-centred approach needs to drive educational decision making, with technology being implemented on those terms. Unfortunately, supporting the learners and teachers in this learner-centred approach won't be achieved solely by a cellphone ban and blocking social media while at school. How to cultivate an engaging classroom environment is a distinctly human problem to solve. Non-technological solutions like manageable class sizes, updated curricula, and other supports for learners and teachers are just as important to meeting this goal.

We also need to look outside the classroom. If, as pop psychologists and various talking-heads like to pontificate, "kids these days" are indeed retreating into their cellphones, we need to ask what is society providing that's any better? One aspect of this we need to examine is the decline of social infrastructure like the "third place." A third place is somewhere that isn't home or work (or school) where people can go to be a part of their community. These places can include parks, public libraries, green spaces, and other neighbourhood hangouts – anywhere where someone can, essentially, loiter freely and in relative safety.

While social media and the COVID-19 pandemic have been recently cited as responsible for the decline of the third place, they are only two nails in that coffin. Concerns about the decline of the third place have been expressed for decades, some citing post-WWII urban planning practices as being the start. Online communities have started to act as a kind of third place, however, as the commons and commercial move in different directions, they too aren't without their own problems. Without easy, affordable, and safe access to third places (including the means to get to those places, like public transit), what's the alternative?

We also need to stop looking at the online world as not being real life. Common Sense Media, in their many resources on cellphones and parenting, points out that kids aren't just living in some imaginary land through their screens. They are connecting with friends, engaging with ideas, expressing their creativity, and learning through the perspectives of people different than them. Common Sense Media's advice to parents does still include setting reasonable screen time limits, but also suggests having non-judgemental discussions about healthy cellphone and social media use, managing notifications, planning around online safety, and role modelling appropriate cellphone use.

> "We also need to look outside the classroom. If, as pop psychologists and various talking–heads like to pontificate, 'kids these days' are indeed retreating into their cellphones."

We blame technology for human problems at our peril. This is not to say technology is blameless, or neutral. However, focusing solely on cellphones means that when it comes to solving very complex, very human issues, we're always going to fall short. Librarian Jessamyn West once said about humans and technology that "hard things are hard." We can't expect hard things to have simple solutions, and we need to remember that humans deserve better than simple solutions.

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Cultural Centre plans Victorian era celebrations

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is a gift to the Minden Community. It provides a space for anyone to access the library, visit the pioneer village, and learn about nature at Nature's place. It also offers the Agnes Jamieson Gallery for those wanting to experience art. /FILE

The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village first opened in 1984 to offer visitors a chance to step back into the past at the heyday of the logging industry in Minden. Costumed interpreters inhabit the village throughout the season from June through August. On Saturday May 18 the Cultural Centre is celebrating the beginning of the summer season at the Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, Nature's Place, and Agnes Jamieson Gallery.

"Visiting us for our season opening on the Victoria Day long weekend is a fantastic way to kick off the summer season in cottage country," said Shannon Kelly, Manager of Cultural Services with the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.

"Visitors will be able to take part in a guided tour around the heritage village or immerse themselves in some early settler games and craft demonstrations. Enjoy a cup of tea or Victorian-era refreshments in the dining room of one of the historic buildings. Check out the interactive displays at Nature's Place and browse a new exhibit highlighting the insect pollinators along the Gull River. Browning Reptiles will have their exotic animal display set up from 12:00 – 2:00 PM inside the Cultural Centre, where visitors will be able to get up close and personal with some amazing animals."

"Visitors can explore the site, then follow the Boardwalk to the Gull River to experience the Stepping into Nature river walk. New in 2003, Stepping into Nature is a free, self-guided walking tour of the Minden Riverwalk trail created by the Haliburton County Master Gardeners," said Kelly.

"The buildings in the heritage village have not changed, however we will have some new displays and interpretive panels in various buildings and in Nature's Place. The exhibit Connection and Response, by conceptual artist Bruce Cull, will also be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery," said Kelly.

"We will have staff and volunteers on site to talk with visitors about the history of the buildings, the current exhibits and the new pollinator exhibit in Nature's Place. Visitors can also enjoy a game of croquet, try walking on a pair of stilts and explore the pioneer game of Graces. Guided tours will have staff leading visitors through the 5 buildings in the village to share local history and stories. The buildings include the historic Sterling Bank building, Bowron House, the logging cookhouse and blacksmith shop, SS#9 Stanhope schoolhouse and the Bethel Church," said Kelly.

"They will be setting up their amazing display so visitors can get up close and personal and learn about their incredible lizards, tortoises, snakes and more," said Kelly. "I always enjoy the display by Browning Reptiles. Their staff is so knowledgeable and loves to share their passion with their visitors. I also love seeing different generations in a family enjoying the games outside together."

"The Township of Minden Hills is fortunate to be the home of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. The site is unique, especially in a small rural area, in that it features high quality and accessible art, history and nature exhibits all in one location."

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Road in Minden, Ontario.

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Minden Rotary dine, bid and dance into June

Every year the community comes together to dine, bid and dance the night away for the annual Rotary Dinner Auction & Dance. This year is no exception and plans have been underway for several months to pull everything together.

Lynda Litwin, long time Rotarian and Chair of the Dinner Auction Committee plans to make this year's event the best ever. Auction items have been flooding in and details ironed out as Lynda prepares for the busiest FUNdraiser of the busy Rotary summer season.

DJ Dan Sullivan will be playing tunes for the Dance Party and MC President Dave Woodcroft has been fine tuning his introductions for the night. Bingo, 50/50 and many other surprises will be ongoing throughout the event and Rotarian Sally Moore is going to be clowning around with a few surprises of her own.

Do you like Wine? Rotary kicks off its wine fundraiser running throughout June with a selection of wines from Fielding Winery. Pick up your forms at the event. 25% of the funds raised go back to the Club.

This year Rotary was lucky enough to receive a beautiful handmade designer (Kaffe Fassett) queen size quilt donated by the Cassidy family. Make sure you get your raffle tickets (selling on the night) for this desirable donation.

Do you have your tickets? $60 each. Deadline for purchase is May 21st . Pick up from Mollys Market, Lets Get Local, Mostly Her, Lynda Litwin Re/Max North or email events@mindenrotary.ca for pick up at the door. For more information www.mindenrotary.ca

Submitted

County hears how a strong tourism industry is a collaboration

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A lucrative tourism season is the product of a collaboration.

Nicole Whiting told Haliburton County during its May 18 meeting that a successful industry comes through the upper tier's tourism efforts along with those of the municipalities and the tourism operators who have invested in the community and provided the experience that makes the region special.

"We are one of only two regions (in Ontario) that are entirely rural," said Whiting, who is the executive director of the Ontario Highlands Tourism Organization.

The regional tourism organization has an annual budget of $740,000. And that's the lowest amount of funding compared to the other 13 organizations.

"But we've accomplished a lot over the years," she said. "Certainly, what we are most proud of is the strength of our relationships with our members and especially our county partners who have all been incredibly collaborative."

Whiting said the OHTO aims to strengthen the communities through responsible tourism. The quality of life in Haliburton County would suffer if tourism relied solely on locals to support the experiences that make the area a great place to live, she said.

"We also recognize the cultural fabric and natural environment can also be compromised as a result of tourism," she said. "Thriving communities understand the value of tourism and the importance of considering the needs of visitors and residents when developing when developing their destination."

Beyond the economic benefits, tourism's broader value is in its economic, social, and cultural benefits, she said.

The new buzz word in place making is the important of third-place belonging.

"Our first place of belonging is our home," Whiting said. "Our second place of belonging is our work. And our third place of belonging is within our community, in those social settings where we gather with friends, family, and strangers in our community to feel connected."

Tourism brings prosperity, but it's the preservation of a community's well-being that has the greatest value, she said.

"In responding responsibly, it's all about harmonizing that prosperity with preservation," she said. "And Haliburton County is very much aligned with this."

In the economic development arena, tourism faces challenges faced by other industries. Inflation, interest rates, taxes, housing and labour shortages, climate change, and financial support are shared issues.

Whiting said the OHTO approach toward responsible tourism includes support for marketing, product and participant skills development, research, industry engagement, and partnerships.

There's that point of collaboration again.

"We really try to build the destination through our people," she said. "The stories of our people, the story of why they've chosen to be in the sector, why they've chosen to live and work in the area and communicating that out to the visitor through content marketing.

HHSS brings *Camelot* to Haliburton

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

Hayden Thorn, Brody Bolger, Keith Bailey-McLeod dress in costume for the Camelot show. Camelot runs May 15 and 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavillion. /Submitted

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's Grade 11/12 Drama class has been working hard this semester in preparation for their production of *Camelot.* Last year's production was *Grease.*

Nineteen students from the class are involved with the production and have recently showcased some of their talents at Hal High's Got Talent Open House on Wednesday.

In addition to producing the show, Drama teacher Meghan Mardus has taught the students about theatre history, including the historical and cultural importance of the pantomime and other forms of theatre from around the world.

The school's production of *Camelot* is a pantomime that will involve a lot of audience participation, said Mardus. "The audience is encouraged to cheer on the good guys and to boo at the bad guys." Pantomime is a British form of theatre that is often performed at Christmas time.

For this production, students were tasked with learning how to audition and to provide a resume. After the run of the production, students will have a culminating portfolio assignment.

"It's a huge amount of work, so we're all having a great time with it," said Mardus.

The school's Drama Club has also been heavily involved with the production of the show.

"I hope that it will encourage the younger students to continue with the drama program," said Mardus.

"I sit there in the booth running cues and I am just laughing," said Mardus. "If I can listen to the jokes and still laugh, that is saying how funny this show is."

Mardus says that rehearsals for the show have been going very well and they began blocking out their performance after the March break.

Last year, many Drama students went to see the Stratford production of *Spamalot*, a show that Mardus says has had a great influence on the student;''s use of comedy in *Camelot.*

"As with many British pantos, *Camelot* has jokes for any age to enjoy," said Mardus.

Mardus says that the show is recommended to anyone aged 7 and up, but families with younger children are encouraged to attend.

"Students have been getting deeper into their characters, immersing themselves completely. They have changed expressions and are getting to know their characters," said Mardus.

"It is going to be such a fun evening," said Mardus. ":We are very excited to share it with everyone after eight weeks of preparation."

Adult tickets for the HHSS's production of *Camelot* are $10 when purchased online through the school's website. Children's tickets are $5.

Tickets will be available at the door that can be purchased by donation.

The runtime of *Camelot* is just under two hours.

Funds raised from ticket sales go straight back into the Drama department at HHSS.

"Any money donated goes straight back to students in Drama," said Mardus.

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Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Scottish Country Dancing
When: Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St.
You don't have to be Scottish to enjoy Scottish Country Dancing. Beginners are always welcome, no partner required. Bring soft soled indoor shoes. RSVP to haliburtonscottishcountrydance@gmail.com byTuesday evening. $5 per person, per evening. to host the new pollinator plants.

CFUW Speaker Series
When: May 16, 7 p.m.
Where: Fleming College, 297 College Dr, Haliburton
Please join us for our speakers Amanda Rico and Amanda Lytle who will share their experiences in India and explain how their organization supports victims of human trafficking to remain safe and free. Refreshments will be provided. For more information on our speaker series and to become a member of this organization whose purpose is to support women and girls.Please go to www.cfuwhh.ca or email Gail Gotter g_gotter@hotmail.com

Don Smith Memorial Bird Walk
When: Saturday, May 18, 6:30 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Rail Trail, 7286 Gelert Road
Join bird expert Ed Poropat to discover which birds are returning to Haliburton County and can be seen and/or heard along the rail trail. A wonderful way to start your day! Meet at the rail trail parking area. Dress for the weather and possibly for bugs. Pre-registration required at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca. Contact 705-457-3700.

Friends of the HCPL - Mega Book Sale
When: Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Branch, Haliburton County Public Library
Books will be available in the Book Nook and the Fireplace Area. We will have a huge selection of gently read books in a wide assortment of genres. Payment is by cash or cheque donation. All money raised by the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library supports library enhancements and programs in all branches in Haliburton County.

The Spirit of Patsy Cline Starring Christina Hutt
When: Saturday, May 25, 7:30 p.m.
Where: The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 - Haliburton
Christina Hutt presents the classic songs of Patsy Cline. As Patsy Cline, Christina brings the original era of the music to life. Engaging the audience with intimate reflections of lost love and those who have passed on, the haunting beauty is resurrected with the help of a five-piece band. Visit www.haliburtonfolk.com for more information.

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Saturday, May 18

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10 am - 3pm

Ask about our house specials starting at $400 k + HST

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8 Booth Street, Minden

Rhubies: a taste of Spain in the Highlands

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

Carnarvon has a new jewel.

Rhubies cocktail bar and tapas restaurant features a lakeside patio right below Rhubarb Restaurant.

"It's Rhubarb's little sister," said Terri Mathews-Carl, co-owner of Rhubies and Rhubarb Restuarant. "It's more of a casual eatery. Everything will be tapas, so really small bites for sharing like something you would get in Spain or Portugal. The seating is set up to allow for more conversation, too. Think Muskoka chairs and loungers."

Cocktails, Ontario and international wine, and local craft beer are on the drink menu.

"We'll serve beer from all the local breweries as well as ones within about an hour radius," Mathews-Carl said.

It boasts modern patio furniture by Ori, a Canadian company.

"The space is pretty large inside, so inside will be a bottle shop where we'll sell craft beer and wine with the purchase of food."

Rhubies will also have lifestyle items available and a vintage clothing section to shop from.

The idea came from gathering inspiration from bars in Spain.

"My daughter went to school in Spain this year, and after visiting we really loved the vibe of small bites along with drinks. We thought there was nothing like that in the county, so we wanted to have offer a similar experience here where you can come and sit by the lake," Mathews-Carl said.

Mathews-Carl's daughter, Annie Merrifield, will be managing Rhubies this summer with the help of some of Rhubarb's regular staff.

Starting on the May long weekend, Rhubies will be open on weekends before opening during the week in the summer.

ACM Designs helped design the interior.

"We're really excited. They've been super helpful with the whole process."

Dogs will be allowed on the outdoor patio

"We're really thrilled to offer this. It's going to be something different that nobody else is doing, so we thought it would be a fun way to spend the summer."

Right, Rhubies, a new cocktail and tapas bar, features a lakeside patio right below Rhubarb Restaurant in Carnarvon. /Photos submitted

SUDOKU SOLUTION

9	4	3	2	1	5	8	6	7
5	6	8	7	3	4	9	2	1
1	7	2	6	8	9	5	4	3
2	5	4	8	9	7	1	3	6
8	1	6	3	4	2	7	5	9
3	9	7	1	5	6	2	8	4
6	2	1	5	7	3	4	9	8
4	8	5	9	6	1	3	7	2
7	3	9	4	2	8	6	1	5

Eyes on the ball

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School girls soccer team swept the home field with an astounding 8-0 win against St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School on Wednesday, May 8 during a rain storm. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

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- The safe removal of your oil tank.
- Installation of a back-up electric heating system (as required)
- Switching over other oil-using household systems. For example, replacing an oil fired hot water heater with an electric water heater.

Eligibility criteria enhancements

The government has simplified the eligibility criteria to make it easier for homeowners to qualify.

Specifically:

- The government has expanded the list of eligible heat pumps.
- Many air source and ground source heat pumps are now eligible.
- The government has increased the low-to-median income threshold to account for the latest inflation, which will result in qualifying more Canadian homeowners.
- Heat pumps range in cost from $12,000-$20,000 with the cost being offset by up to a $10,000 in grants.

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705-341-9170
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They get knocked down, but they get up again

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School rugby team played in an exhibition game on their home field in the sunshine on Monday, May 6. HHSS lost 25-0 against Fenelon Falls Secondary School, a team with four years of experience. Coach Alexis David said all team members were proud of their play, having just started this year as a team. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

PUBLIC NOTICE
ROGERS COMMUNICATIONS - PROPOSED 91.5 METRE GUYED TOWER WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATION C8268

DESCRIPTION:

- The guy-anchored tower structure will sit within a chain-link fenced compound. The compound will contain a walk-in equipment cabinet housing radio equipment, tools, manuals and first aid kit.
- The site will provide fast and reliable wireless voice and data services in the Township of Minden Hills in the area of Brady Lake, eliminating the need for additional infrastructure in the area.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION:

With respect to this matter, the public is invited to provide written comments or request additional information by **June 17th, 2024,** to the contact shown below. Please include a return address.

Spectra Point Inc. - Agent for Rogers
Saja Elshaikh
718 – 33 Fredrick Todd Way
Toronto, ON M4G 0C9
Phone: (647) 447-8548
Email: saja@spectrapoint.ca

LOCATION: Site located in a forested lot 800 metres north and 600 metres east of the intersection of Hwy 118 and 1 Mile Drive.

AVIS PUBLIC
ROGERS COMMUNICATIONS - PROJET DE TOUR HAUBANÉE DE 91,5 MÈTRES INSTALLATION DE TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS SANS FIL C8268

DESCRIPTION :

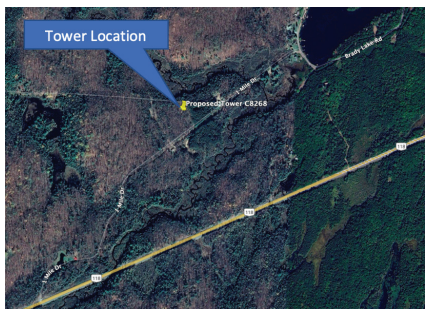
- La structure de la tour haubanée sera située dans une enceinte clôturée par un grillage. L'enceinte contiendra une armoire de rangement pour le matériel radio, les outils, les manuels et la trousse de premier secours.
- Le site fournira des services voix et données sans fil rapides et fiables dans le canton de Minden Hills, dans la zone du lac Brady, éliminant ainsi le besoin d'infrastructures supplémentaires dans la région.

LA CONSULTATION PUBLIQUE :

En ce qui concerne cette question, le public est invité à fournir des commentaires écrits ou à demander des informations supplémentaires avant le **17 Juin 2024**, au contact indiqué ci-dessous. Veuillez inclure une adresse de retour.

Spectra Point Inc - Agent pour Rogers
Saja Elshaikh
718 - 33 Fredrick Todd Way
Toronto, ON M4G 0C9
Téléphone : (647) 447-8548
Courriel : saja@spectrapoint.ca

EMPLACEMENT : Site situé dans un lot boisé à 800 mètres au nord et 600 mètres à l'est de l'intersection de la route 118 et de la promenade



Request for Interested Parties
The Township of Minden Hills is looking for individuals and/or companies for the clean-up of properties as per Property Standards By-Law 11-61.

Interested Parties would be required to perform any or all of the following duties:
Clean-up or Removal of:

- Household garbage
- Miscellaneous debris
- Building materials
- Rubbish
- Brush/long grass/growth and noxious weeds (as defined by the Weed Controlled Act)
- Unlicensed/dismantled/wrecked/discarded vehicles/trailers/boats/machinery
- Dilapidated/collapsed, fully constructed or partially constructed structures.

Proof of Liability Insurance and WSIB are mandatory.

Please submit letters of interest and proof of Liability Insurance and WSIB to:
Paula Ingram, Municipal Law Enforcement Officer
Email: pingram@mindenhills.ca
Township of Minden Hills, Box 359, 7 Milne Street,
Minden, ON K0M 2K0.

Around the county on the long weekend

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

Gord Kidd and Friends at the Dominion Hotel

Come see Gord Kidd and Friends play a show at the Dominion Hotel on Saturday May 18th form 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.! Gord Kidd While watching the show, why don't you dig into a Yankee Boxer at the Dominion, a delicious hotdog covered in chili. While you are there try the world famous fries!

Minden Hills Artisan Market

Visit Bobcaygeon Road, the main street of Minden on Saturday May 18th from 10 to 2 for the Minden Hills Artisan Market. Local handmade items include textiles, photography, jewelry, wood products, and much more! We are certain you will find a beautiful piece of art at this market.

Haliburton County Farmers Market

With spring weather comes locally grown produce. Come visit the farmer's market. The Market takes place on Tuesdays at Head Lake Park in Haliburton form 10 - 2, Fridays at Abbey Gardens in West Guilford from 2 -6, and Saturdays in Minden, located at Milne Street and Pritchard Lane (behind the Township offices). We guarantee you will find something good with a variety of local makers, bakers, and growers.

S.S. Bigwin Cruises

Book a cruise on the S.S. Bigwin in Dorset, right beside the Lake of Bays Marine Museum. Enjoy breathtaking views during a cruise in the Lake of Bays while travelling on a wooden steamship. Two public cruises are happening on Friday May 17th thru May 19th. Book now before more days sellout! After docking, visit the Lake of Bays Marine Museum next door.

MH Museum and Heritage Village, Nature's Place and Agnes Jamieson Gallery

Come celebrate the season opening of the Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village on Saturday May 18th. There will be fun for the whole family and tonnes to experience. Enjoy a Victorian tea in a historic building, play early settlers' games and participate in making early settlers' crafts. Guided tours will take place throughout the day. Visit Nature's Place to see Browning Reptiles exotic animal display from 12 to 2 p.m. There will be something for everyone!

Dorset Scenic Lookout Tower

Located just off Highway 35, Dorset's scenic lookout tower provides stellar views of Algonquin Highlands. Originally built in 1922, the tower stands 82 feet high, overlooking breathtaking forests, Rabbit Bay, Trading Bay, and Dorset Narrows.

Snowflake Meadows Magical Festival

Snowflake Meadows Animal Rescue is having their first annual Magical Festival Fundraiser. This event will be fun for the whole family with bouncy castles, a petting zoo, playtime with puppies, face painting and even an Irish wolfhound kissing booth. Entry is by donation and additional donations are required for some activities. Snowflake Meadows is located at 1089 Ritchie Falls Road in Minden. Snowflakes Meadows has saved hundreds of animals in the area and hopes to raise funds for a kennel for the registered charity.

Van Halen One Concert at Hollow Valley Resort

Muskoka's very own Van Halen tribute show is bringing their performance to Hollow Valley Resort on Saturday May 18th at 8p.m.. The band will play hits from Van Halen's first album, showcasing the masterpieces of the band's David Lee Roth era. The show will also include hits such as 'Beautiful Girls', 'Panama', and 'Jump'. The band's musicians deliver Van Halen's music as it should be–with intensity and exuberance.

Karaoke with DJ Don

Karaoke is back at Hook, Line and SInker for one night only before the summertime! Come join DJ Don to rock your heart out to the classics, or whatever you would like to sing to! Karaoke will be at 9 p.m. at Hook, Line and Sinker, located at 126 Highland Street in Haliburton.

Don Smith Memorial Bird Walk

Gather at the Rail Trail Trailhead parking area off of Gelert road for the Don Smith Memorial Bird Walk. Join local bird expert Ed Poropat through the Haliburton Rail Trail spotting and listening to birds! Ed brings years of experience and a feverish passion towards bird watching that will be infectious to others. This event is on Saturday May 18th at 6:30 a.m.. Pre-registration is required and admission is by donation.

Acoustic Open Mic at the Music Room

Got an instrument laying around? Think you got what it takes? Come out and try your hand at the Acoustic Open Mic event at the Music Room in Haliburton. Event takes place on Sunday May 19th and is from 12 - 3.

Friends of HCPL Big Book Sale

Visit the Haliburton County Public Library's Minden Hills branch on Saturday May 18th for a book sale from 10 - 2. Price is by donation. Hosted by the Friends of Haliburton County Public Library.

SEASON OPENING MAY 18!
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Minden Hills Museum & Heritage Village
Nature's Place Interpretive Centre
Agnes Jamieson Gallery
Victorian tea | Early settlers' games and crafts
Guided Tour | Interactive displays at Nature's Place
Browning Reptiles Exotic Animal Display from 12-2 pm!
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SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER
Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sales Rules

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

TAKE NOTICE that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land(s) described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on June 12, 2024, at the Township Office.

Legal Description:

1. **PT LT 4 CON A MINDEN AS IN H258825; MINDEN HILLS.**
BEING ALL OF PIN 39196-0090 (LT).
Roll # 46 16 033 000 40300 0000 – Township of Minden Hills
Municipal Address: 144 Bobcaygeon Rd, MINDEN, ON, K0M 2K0
Minimum Tender Amount: $136,830.95

2. **PT LT 21 CON 10 MINDEN PT 2 19R3430; S/T EXECUTION 05-0000339, IF ENFORCEABLE; S/T EXECUTION 92-0001067, IF ENFORCEABLE; S/T EXECUTION 95-0000874, IF ENFORCEABLE; S/T EXECUTION 97-0000340, IF ENFORCEABLE; MINDEN HILLS. BEING ALL OF PIN 39191-0006 (LT).**
Roll # 46 16 032 000 61500 0000 – Township of Minden Hills
Municipal Address: 1040 Soyers Lake Road, MINDEN, ON, K0M 2K0
Minimum Tender Amount: $17,279.50

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001, and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act.

Further information about this matter is available online at www.mindenhills.ca/en/local-government/bid-opportunities.aspx, or you may contact:

Sherry Mulholland, Deputy Treasurer
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359, MINDEN, Ontario, K0M 2K0
Telephone: (705) 286-1260, Ext. 501
Email: smulholland@mindenhills.ca
Township website: www.mindenhills.ca

Practices to offset effects of too much screen time

A study conducted by the Waypoint Research Institute (WRI) that included participants from the Haliburton area bears hopeful news for youths whose emotional well-being has been impacted by excessive screen time.

"The younger generations have never experienced life without smartphones," said Dr. Soyeon Kim, a WRI Research Scientist and the study's principal investigator. "It's like an extra arm — part of their body that they cannot live without."

She pointed out numerous studies have shown the negative effects of texting, online gaming, social media and television on emotional problems like anxiety and depression. And that only got worse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Kim and her collaborators — WRI Research Co-ordinator Stephanie Munten, Dr. Nathan Kolla, Waypoint's former Vice-President, Research & Academics, and Research Psychologist Dr. Barna Konkoly-Thege — set out to explore whether a 12-week mindfulness program help reduce the behavioural problems and increase psychological health.

It turns out the answer is yes.

But what is mindfulness? Simply put, it is the practice of being in the moment with a non-judgmental and accepting attitude. For example, practitioners take heed of their breathing in their daily lives, like while eating or walking. During the study period, a total of 117 participants were asked to embrace, pay attention to and process their experiences for one hour each week rather than just unconsciously perform them.

"Mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs) are something that is very preventive," explained Dr. Kim, likening it to a type of secular meditation. "It's convenient, easy to apply, and it's good for everyone."

More information about mindfulness can be found online at cmha.ca/brochure/mindfulness.

The youths in the study came from partner organizations in the Haliburton, north Simcoe and Guelph-Wellington areas. Each participant filled out a survey indicating their mental well-being before and after the MBIs. Researchers were interested in measuring conduct problems and hyperactivity.

"After the mindfulness program, hyperactivity symptoms decreased significantly," said Dr. Kim, adding MBIs were shown to be effective regardless of how much time youths spend in front of screens.

The results are important because children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, for example, are most commonly treated with medication, which can come with side effects. In addition, MBIs are potentially valuable for those who live in areas where access to mental-health services isn't readily available.

The study, which was published April 9, was supported in part by funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Visit frontiersin.org/journals/psychiatry/articles/10.3389/fpsyt.2024.1248963/full to read the complete study.

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	4	3		1				
	6		7			9	2	
1			6					
				9	7			
				4	2		5	
						2	8	4
		1					9	
		5						2
7					8	6		

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 15

A crabapple tree blooms in Minden. /submitted by Guenter Horst

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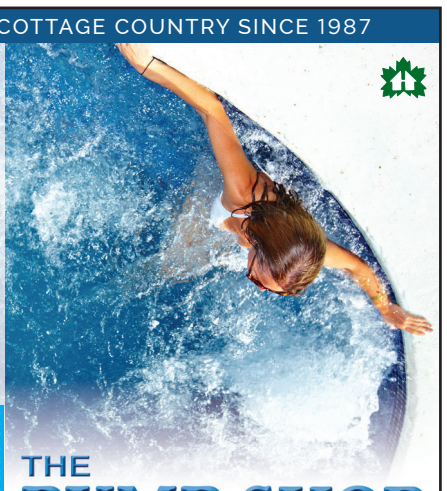

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Fundraising Yard Sale. **Saturday May 18, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. West Guilford Baptist Church**, 1063 Nila Road. Hot dogs and pop will also be sold. All proceeds to the Haliburton 4C's Food Bank.

Yard Sale: **1289 Hunter Creek Road**, Minden. May 17 and 18, 10am - 4pm. Collectibles, Jewellery, yarn, prints, baskets, craft and school supplies, clothing, baby items, disney tapes, computer table, and more. Nothing over $10.

Huge yard Sale **May 18, 19, 20** at **10019 County Road 503** west of Gooderham. Tools, garden cultivator, paddle boat, gas & electric grass trimmers, hedge trimmer, sinks, electric trolling motor, toys, puzzles, crafts, books, Christmas & Halloween & much more. 9 till 6 daily. Rain or shine.

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Education budget up 8 percent

Education costs in Haliburton County will increase by almost eight per cent this year and as a result, local education taxes will be rising by an average of 6.6 per cent.

The board approved its 1988 budget last Tuesday, increasing the spending to $10.8 million. While this represents a 7.97 per cent increase over the 1987 budget, increased provincial support has helped reduce the impact on local taxpayers. Provincial grants will increase by almost 10 per cent this year to $3.99 million.

The average tax increase is 6.6 per cent, although the actual increase varies among the 10 municipalities. Cardiff will be hit with the highest increase, at 11.3 per cent. Dysart tax payers will see a 10.9 per cent hike. In Lutterworth the increase will be 8 per cent; 7.3 per cent for Snowdon; 3.9 per cent for Stanhope; 3.8 per cent for Sherborne, 4.4 per cent for Monmouth; 3.4 per cent for Glamorgan; 3.1 per cent for Minden and .003 per cent for Bicroft.

In presenting the very brief budget summary Tuesday, Business Administrator Jim Bradley said the increase is primarily due to the increasing enrolment being experienced across the board. He said enrolment has risen by 10 per cent and is expected to continue climbing. This, along with the board's commitment to smaller class sizes and additional preparation time for teachers, has created a need for additional teachers. This will cost the board an additional $500,000 in salaries, said Bradley.

In addition, Bradley said the school buildings are aging and major work is planned for this year. Cardiff School will be getting a new roof at a cost of $50,000. Many new windows will be installed at the high school at a cost of $30,000. Bradley added that a number of smaller projects will add up to another $100,000 in capital costs.

(more on page 18)

Dan Wullieme easily clears the bar in the Junior Boys' pole vault during the track and field meet at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School on Thursday. The meet was originally scheduled for Tuesday, but had to be postponed because of rain. Although the skies still threatened on Thursday, the rain held off and the meet went ahead with nine school records being broken. Wullieme finished second in his event clearing a height of 2.73 metres. For more pictures and a complete listing of results, see pages 10, 11 and 12.

Smoking ban resolution defeated

Problems need to be worked out

After more than two years of deliberations, the Haliburton County Board of Education is not yet ready to declare its buildings smoke-free areas.

With a 10-3 recorded vote at Tuesday's meeting, trustees defeated a motion that would have outlawed smoking in all buildings owned by the board, except those being rented out.

Although most trustees spoke in favour of eliminating smoking within the buildings, a number of problems would first need ironing out before they would be willing to pass such a motion. One of the main problems noted is the irony that would be created by denying teachers a smoking area while allowing students to continue their practice in the school yard.

Trustee Len Salvatori objected to the proposal on these grounds. "We're telling adults you can't smoke, but it's okay for the students," he said. "Some place along the way we have to let the students know there is no smoking."

He suggested that the school grounds should also be included in the no-smoking area and moved an amendment to the motion. However, no one would second Salvatori's amendment.

Board Chairman Lynn Craigmyle was the main proponent of the smoking ban. He said the board has been discussing this issue for two years and unless something is done, the debate could go on for another ten years.

The problem is that non-smoking teachers have to share a building with smokers. Although all the schools have designated smoking areas, these are generally located in the

(more on page 2)

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